

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-07 ISO-00 NSC-06 AID-01 AF-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6164

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 0631

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (COUGHLIN, WILLIAM)

SUBJECT: STAFFDEL COUGHLIN

REF: STATE 6740

1. DURING THREE-DAY STAY HERE, SENATOR TUNNEY'S ASSISTANT, WILLIAM COUGHLIN, MET WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU'S SENIOR ADVISOR BISENGIMANA, THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU, NGUZA KARL-I-BOND, FNLA CHEIF HOLDEN ROBERTO VARIOUS MID-LEVEL FNLA LEADERS, OTHER AD-HOC CONTACTS AND WAS BRIEFED BY THE EMBASSY. COUGHLIN DESCRIBED THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP AS THAT OF GATHERING ALL RELEVANT FACTORS ON THE ANGOLA SITUATION SO THAT TUNNEY AND OTHER INTEREST SENATORS WOULD BE WELL BRIEFED ON THE UPCOMING HEARINGS. COUGHLIN TOLD ALL HIS INTERLOCUTORS THAT TUNNEY'S INTENTION IN SPONSORING THE DECEMBER 19 AMENDMENT TO THE DEFENSE APPROPRIATION BILL HAD BEEN SOLELY TO PREVENT FURTHER COVERT AID; IF THE ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED TO MAKE ITS CASE PUBLICLY FOR FURTHER AID IN THE ANGOLAN CONTEST--AND IF THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION MERIT SUCH AID--TUNNEY AND OTHERS WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO ALONG.

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2. THIS KIND OF INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT BY COUGHLIN HAD

THE EFFECT WITH ZAIRIANS AND FNLA LEADERS OF ELICITING
FULL BRIEFING BY W

ETAILED REASONING AS TTCRS THE#
US SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE ANTI-MPLA FORCES IN ANGOLA
AND AFRICA IN GENERAL. THE ZAIRIANS EMPHASIZED THE THREAT
TO THEIR OWN SECURITY POSED BY SOVIET/CUBAN INROADS IN
ANGOLA AND PREDICTED FURTHER SUCH INROADS IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA IF THE SOVIET POLICY WERE ALLOWED TO BE SUCCESSFUL.
THE FNLA LEADERS EMPHASIZED THE RELATIVELY MINIMUM AMOUNTS
OF US AID THEY HAD RECEIVED AND PLEADED FOR MORE--QUICKLY.

3. COUGHLIN RECENTLY LEF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES TO
JOIN TUNNEY'S STAFF. HE HANDLED HIMSELF VERY
WELL, ASKED GOOD QUESTIONS AND WAS INVARIABLE POLITE WITH
HIS HOSTS. HE SEEMED TO BE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE
ZAIRIAN LEADERS AND LESS IMPRESSED BY THE FNLA CADRES.
HE ENCOURAGEA THEPIFIIAANS TO SEND A DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON
LWM MJUPHO IR
SDEFOEFORE THE CONGRESS AND ASSURED THEM THAT
THEY WOULD BE WELLGMECEVQHZ
Y TUNNEY AND OTHERS.
CUTLER

NOTE BY OCT: (#) AS RECEIVED, CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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